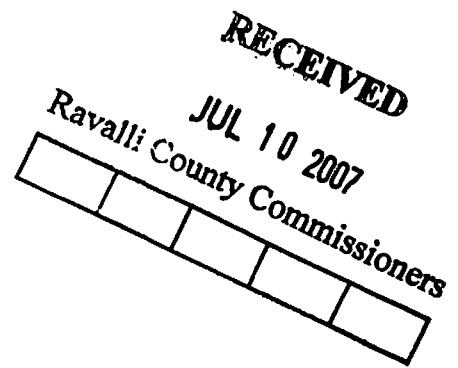


07/02/07

Glenda Wiles, Administrative Assistant
Ravalli County Commissioners Office
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840



Dear Glenda Wiles,

Enclosed is a letter that I have sent to Chuck Oliver, District Ranger, and to Barry Paulson, Acting Forest Supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest. The letter is *in regards* to the re-opening of the gravel quarry in Lost Horse Canyon. I feel very strongly that any decision to re-open the quarry will have a decisive negative impact on the wildlife, outdoor recreation, and the lifestyle of those individuals living in the area.

Sincerely,
James A. Carroll
1209 Milton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
jcarroll@pitt.edu

07/02/07

Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
Darby Ranger District
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59828

Barry Paulson
Acting Forest Supervisor
Bitterroot National Forest
1801 North 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Mr. Oliver and Mr. Paulson,

I was a resident of Hamilton, Montana for 5 years (1997 to 2002) and enjoyed the many pleasures offered by the Bitterroot-Selway National Forest. In fact, I still take every opportunity to return to the region yearly to partake in the multitude of outdoor recreational activities available in the area. Many of the activities that draw me back to the Bitterroot-Selway include bouldering, climbing, and hiking in Lost Horse Canyon. As rockclimbing is one of my passions, I feel it important to weigh in on the discussion to re-open the gravel quarry in Lost Horse Canyon. Before you make your decision on the topic, please bear in mind that the region has been used heavily by many individuals for recreational purposes year round. From a climber's perspective, the area near the old abandoned quarry is home to some of the highest quality rockclimbing in the Bitterroot Valley. The cracks that run through out the granite are world-class, some second only to the quality found in Yosemite. The established routes are safe and well protected, but the area is also home to some very intense and enjoyable bouldering routes as well.

As this area and outdoor recreational sports continue to grow, protecting the access and integrity of the climbing and bouldering should be considered a priority. The reasoning is simple. There is value in these natural resources, but you must look beyond the short term to find it. By re-opening the Lost Horse quarry you will devalue this region, and in the process you will alienate the hikers, climbers, mountain bikers, ATV enthusiasts, horseback riders, and campers that come to Lost Horse Canyon to share in and enjoy the beauty and accessibility of the area all year. Furthermore, if the quarry is allowed to resume operations there will undoubtedly be an impact on the wildlife in the area. I have personally encountered falcons elegantly soaring past me as I climbed the last pitch of Adam's Crack. These falcons nest on the cliffs above the quarry, and I would be hard-pressed to believe that the heavy equipment required to excavate the area wouldn't negatively impact the peregrine falcons, the deer, or the wolverines that inhabit Lost Horse Canyon.

Ultimately, re-opening the Lost Horse Canyon quarry is incompatible with the current recreational uses of the area and should be stopped. Climbing, hiking, camping, etc. are just a few of the year round outdoor recreational activities that will be negatively impacted by the re-opening of the abandoned Lost Horse quarry. Furthermore, the introduction of a crushing plant, excavators, bulldozers, tractors, loaders, and a diesel-powered portable generating plant will have a grave impact not only on the wildlife but also on the lifestyle and well being of the numerous Montanans that call Lost Horse Canyon their home.

Sincerely,
James A. Carroll
1209 Milton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
jcarroll@pitt.edu